Agriculture University about the suitability for reclamation is necessary to claim this benefit. This scheme is an extension of the existing plan scheme for tea plantation development activities. In addition, the Tea Board provides assistance through various schemes, as follows:—

(1) Several incentives are given to small tea growers for setting up of self help groups, organizing study tours for visiting other tea growing regions of the country, raising of nurseries for supply of good quality planting materials etc.

(2) Grant-in-aid is provided for extending advisory services and organizing training programmes on modern aspects of tea cultivation.

(3) The Board had also provided assistance in the past for setting up of four co-operative factories in the State.

(4) In order to ensure a reasonable return for the green leaf produced by the small tea growers, a price sharing formula between small tea growers and manufacturers of made tea is being implemented with effect from 1st April 2004.

(5) A price subsidy scheme for small tea growers has been announced for a four month period from February to May 2004, under which a maximum subsidy of Rs. 8 per kg. for made tea (which would amount to approximately Rs. 2 per kg for green leaf) would be paid to the small tea growers having holding upto 10.12 hectares.

Foreign investment in education

†*85. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to allow the foreign capital investment in the field of education;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the areas in the field of education decided to be given priority for the purpose; and

(c) the percentage of foreign capital investment which has been decided to be allowed in each field of education?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(SHRIARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) Foreign Direct Investment in Education Sector was allowed under the automatic route without any sectoral cap since February 2000 *vide* Order No. 7(4)/2000-IP dated 11th February 2000 issued by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion. The order *inter-alia,* contained the following provisions:—

"In pursuance of Government's commitment to early implementation of the second phase of the economic reforms and with a view to further liberalizing the FDI regime, Government, on review of the policy on FDI, has decided to place all items/activities under the automatic route for FDI/NRI and OCB investment except the following:—

(i) All proposals that require an Industrial lincence which includes (i) the item requiring an Industrial licence under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act 1951; (ii) Foreign investment being more than 24% in the equity capital of units manufacturing items reserved for small scale industries; and (iii) all items which require an industrial licence in terms of the locational policy notified by Government under the New Industrial Policy of 1991.

(ii) All proposals in which the foreign collaborator has a previous venture/tie-up in India. The modalities prescribed in Press Note No. 18 dated 14.12.98 of 1998 series, shall apply in such cases.

(iii) All proposals relating to acquisition of shares in an existing Indian company in favour of a foreign/NRI/OCB investor.

(iv) All proposals falling outside notified sectoral policy/caps or under sectors in which FDI is not permitted and/or whenever any investor chooses to make an application to the FIPB and not to avail of the automatic route."

Education did not fall under any of the categories contained therein and since there was no sectoral policy, the FDI in education sector was covered under the automatic route without any sectoral cap.

In April 2003, All India Council for Technical Education has issued a Notification for regulating entry and operations of Foreign Universities/ Institutions imparting technical Education in India.

On the commencement of these Regulations, no foreign university/ instituion shall establish/operate its educational activity in india leading to award of diplomas/degrees, including post graduate and doctoral degrees without the express permission/approval of the Council.